1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

888 middle-aged man of wealth and ability will receive more consideration than an old man who is not important.

Old men with numerous descendants occupy an enviable position. They exercise parental authority over both their children and grandchildren and are respected by non-relatives because of the power they wield. Their own children treat them with great consideration, for if they fail in their duties the father will revenge himself by giving away his property to other children or even outsiders. Old men fully realize the strength of their position and are often overbearing. [578] I saw several instances of tension between fathers and grown sons and heard of a few cases in which sons had actually left home to escape their fathers' domination. This was said to be a recent development, due to the peace imposed by the French. It would have been impossible under primitive conditions and was still frowned on by the community. There is a distinct feeling that the care and expense involved in rearing a child are an investment which should be repaid by care of the parent in his old age.

562 Old women have less authority over their children than old men,
888 but, if widowed, they will live with one of their married sons and take an active part in the direction of his household. The relation between mothers and grown sons seems much more friendly than that between fathers and sons, but there is sometimes friction between mothers and daughters-in-law. The authority of the mother over the daughter-in-law is not clearly defined, so the possibilities of conflict are increased. In a few cases mothers lived alone in small houses built near those of their married sons. I was told that they did this of their own free will.

888 Childless old people of both sexes have a lower status than those with children. They will be looked after by their closest kin, but if these are poor, or stingy, they may be neglected. However, they are never allowed to suffer real hardship. This is due less to affection than to the fear that their ghosts may revenge themselves on those who have neglected them.

567 In former times, old slaves were assured of support by their masters. Informants had never heard of selling a slave because he had become old or useless. They said that, in the first place, no one would buy him and, in the second, such a sale would be a disgrace to his master. The fear of vengeance from his ghost also helped to secure good treatment for him. As most slaves had families, the problem rarely arose.